



# Yuma County Asthma Coalition

**Victoria Steinfelt, Yuma STEPS Program Director**  
**Nohemi Ortega, Yuma STEPS Program Coordinator**

**Chronic Disease Disparities in Arizona:  
From Awareness to Action  
April 13, 2005**



---

## How we started:

- Initial plan was to organize a subcommittee to address issues under this disease, however as community members were contacted to participate, the need for a formal group or coalition was expressed and supported.
  - The Yuma Asthma Coalition started in February, 2004.
-



---

## How we started:

- Early meetings involved discussing current asthma issues in Yuma County, and a list of policy issues was created.
-



# List of Policy Issues

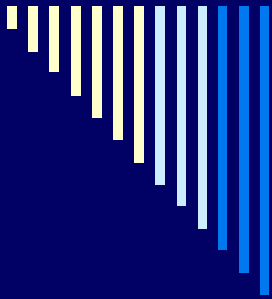
- ☐ Landscape requirement in schools to settle dirt
  - ☐ Schools to allow agencies to present asthma education
  - ☐ Set time for farmers to spray pesticides
  - ☐ School policy on children carrying their own inhalers
  - ☐ Breathing machine available in all schools
  - ☐ Support group for parents of children with asthma
  - ☐ Identify policies in place in schools and evaluate compliance
  - ☐ Encourage physicians to cooperate with districts on action plans
  - ☐ Provide educational material in Spanish
  - ☐ Conduct home visits for assessment after frequent ER visits (establish referral system)
  - ☐ Offer extended pharmacy hours
  - ☐ Implement non-smoking requirements for all public places
-

---



# Process

- The list of policy issues was prioritized to develop a policy change action plan.
  - Coalition members voted on issues with the idea that an initial plan would be developed addressing one or two of the priorities.
  - After one year of working on action plan developed, the list would be revisited for further development of the action plan.
-

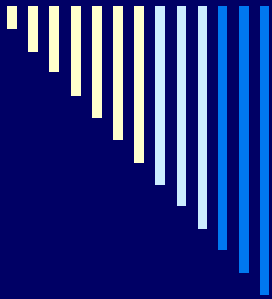


2004

# Policy Change Action Plan

## □ Issues:

Address schools regarding asthma education and self-management. *Increase asthma education in schools and student self-management, through asthma programs (i.e. Open Airways), and students being allowed to carry own inhalers after successfully completing training and receiving school nurse (RN) approval. Have breathing machines available in schools.*



2004

# Policy Change Action Plan

## □ Activities:

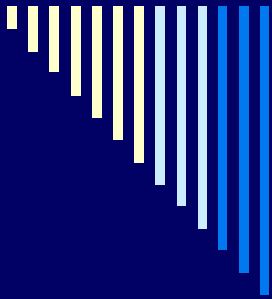
*Research local statistics regarding ER admissions, school absenteeism, and information for PowerPoint presentation. Contact School Boards and present at School Boards meetings and Principals meetings. Work with hospital and providers to develop action plans for individual patients to be used in schools. Present providers with asthma coalition efforts and school action plan protocol. Develop list of local asthma resources.*



# Yuma County Stats:

- Stats from Children 7-14 from Jan 03 – July 04
  - Yuma Regional Medical Center ER visits 496
  - 293 males – 203 females
  - 87 children were admitted
  - Total of 583 asthma episodes
  - These stats do not include children transferred to other facilities
  - Average length of stay in hospital: 2.5 days per child



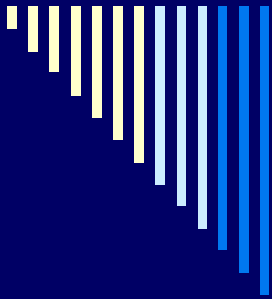


2004

# Policy Change Action Plan

## □ **Materials, Resources & Personnel:**

*Coalition member resources, PowerPoint Presentation, Open Airways Program, Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Department of Education, National Association of School Nurses*



2004

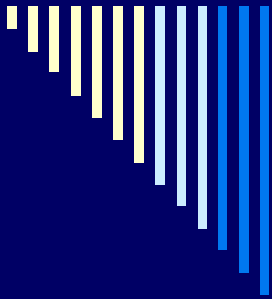
# Policy Change Action Plan

## □ Time Frame

*Contact School Boards during Fall 2004. Present to School Boards and Principals Meetings during Fall 2004*

## □ Evaluation

*Number of districts contacted. Number of presentations made, Number of schools receiving services, Use of student action plans, List of resources developed*



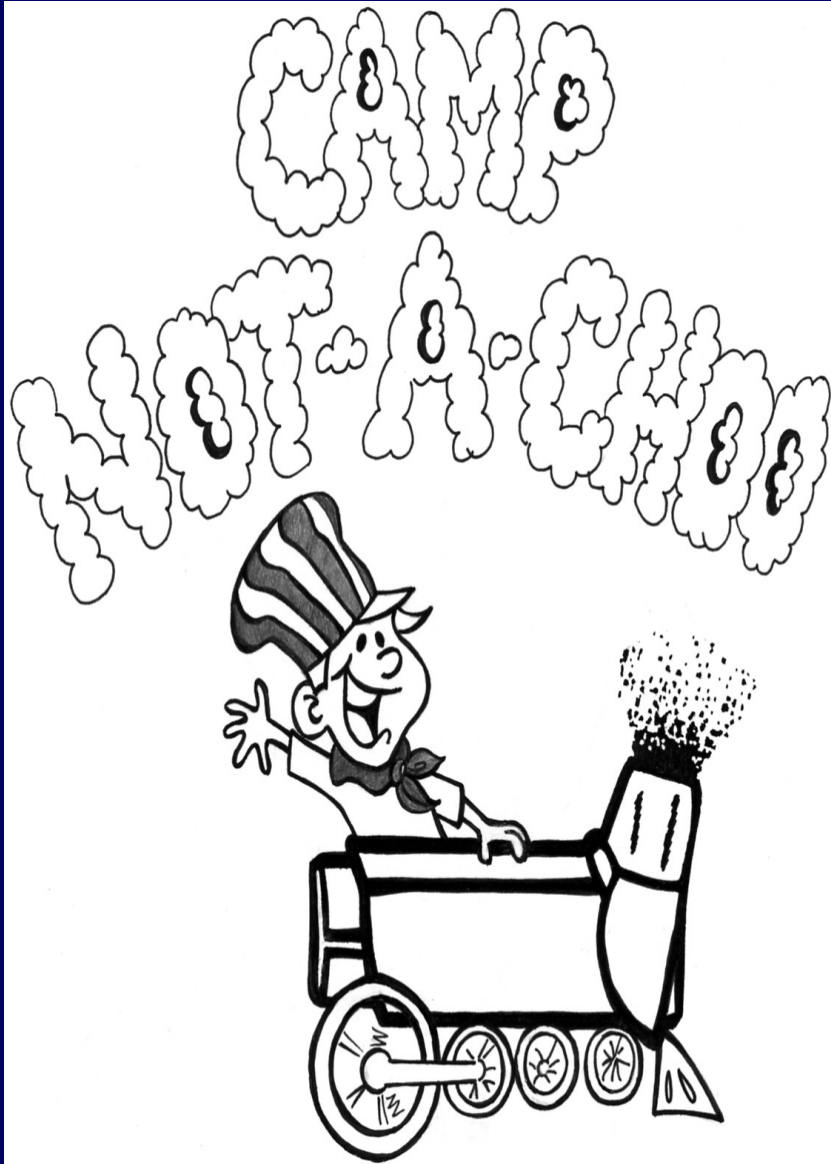
# 2004 Policy Change Action Plan Status

- Open Airways presentations were conducted in the following manner, requesting districts to allow program in their schools:
    - 3 school board meetings
    - 2 Principal's meetings
    - 1 nurse's meetings
  
  - Open Airways training and certification was conducted by the American Lung Association in Yuma. Steps to a HealthierAZ staff, school and health department nurses, and lay health workers attended training, for a total of 30 trained.
  
  - 4 schools have received program and 3 more will begin the week of April 18. This represents 3 districts out of the 5 contacted districts.
-



## In Addition

- In addition to the 2004 Policy Change Action Plan, the need for a local Asthma Camp was identified. Yuma residents are unable to attend State Asthma Camp due to finances, distance, fear of children being away from home for a week.
- Coalition members began organizing the First Yuma Asthma Camp. Camp Not-A-Choo.



**Date:** April 22 & 23, 2005

**Location:** Yuma County  
Sheriff's Posse Arena

**Ages:** Children 8-11 years.

**Purpose:** Teach self  
management skills to children  
with asthma, in a safe and fun  
environment.

**Organizers:** University of Arizona  
Cooperative Extension, Yuma County Health  
Department, Yuma Regional Medical Center,  
Regional Center for Border Health,  
Campesinos Sin Fronteras, Child & Family  
Resources, Arizona Department of Health  
Services, Yuma School District 1, and Arizona  
Department of Environmental Quality.

# Coalition Members





# Contact Information

- Victoria Steinfelt, Extension Director  
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension  
2200 W 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 102, Yuma, AZ 85364  
(928) 726-3904  
vestein@ag.arizona.edu
  - Nohemi Ortega, Program Coordinator  
Steps to a HealthierAZ – Yuma County  
2200 W 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 102, Yuma, AZ 85364  
(928) 726-3904  
nohemi@ag.arizona.edu
-